

Altona 9 November 1869

My Dear Sir.

I know by Your letter of October 11, that in few days You will leave England; I therefore write this letter not only to bid You farewell and to wish You a good voyage when You take home, but to thank You once more for Your kindness towards me. After having unpacked the large collection of D^r. Wright, to see how far I have proceeded till now, I dare say, that, if God gives me health, I shall be able to finish my task next spring and as I hope, also to Your and D^r. Wright's content, so that he will excuse the long retardation. As for the manuscript I must confess, that I am more accustomed to write latin, but I shall try how far I am able to meet Your wishes and if You will favour me with Your help, I think, there can be no obstacle. A real impediment only will exist for the publication of the drawings, because they contain much more than can be used; for the Mexican Hepaticae I was obliged to select only some of my figures, and as I was allowed to have 20 plates I arranged it thus, as You see it now; I used the smallest power of my magnifying glass and the prisma to facilitate this business; but as I never have made a drawing on stone, Your plan is for me just as unpracticable as

as to have made the plates for my own expense. Therefore I have imagined another plan, which I have executed already, for a few species; I have made a drawing, of the parts, which belong to the diognose or which give some interesting marks, on a little sheet in 8^{vo}, on which I have glued the plant itself or a part of it; this will be an illustrating plate for the manuscript and help very much to find out the smaller forms of Lejeuniae, which very often creep together on the same leaf. Perhaps You may choose out of these figures what You believe convenient for the illustration of the paper, and if this plan agrees not with the opinion of the editors, this illustrative sheet, I suppose, will always be a very acceptable help for every botanist; let it then be an addition to that part of the collection which You separate for Your botanical Museum.

The expedition of the 4 large packets (if I have finished my task) will be in a chest; Can this be forwarded with the steamboat to New-York with the address: „To the Smithsonian Institution, Washington“ or how can this be managed? You must excuse my rudeness in this point as I never have sent any thing to America, Mr. Sullivant lamented, when he sent these 4 packets, the loss of all Hepaticae, which where collected in Wilke's expedition, have You never heard of them since? I should therefore like to have Your direction to get

the collection sure and safely over and not plundered or disturbed by imprudent hands; I beg therefore You will favour me with Your advice.

Now my Dear Sir, I wish that You reach sound and safe Your home and that You find Your family in the best health; I lament really, that I was not allowed to shake Your hands.

Yours truly,
D. Gottsche.